

only lately swallowed a 3 year old barking deer (male) which, when the snake was opened up, was found quite fresh inside, some of the hair being still dry. The only bone broken was the near hind leg; the fore legs and ribs were intact. The horns were gone too; at least I take it there had been horns for the roots were raw and bloody. I may add that a couple of Burmans asked for permission to take the deer away to eat! Permission was granted. My cook a Burman, rather amused me by stating quite gravely that the snake, after digesting its meal, would hang itself by the tail over the branch of a tree and shake its head until the indigestible bones came up. It would be interesting to know if a like superstition exists in Assam or in other places where this variety of snake is found.

I may add that the measurement was taken by tape as the reptile lay on the ground and was found to be just over the  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

C. G. STEWART.

MINBU, BURMA,  
7th October 1916.

No. X.—OCCURRENCE OF RUSSELL'S EARTH SNAKE (*ERYX CONICUS*) AT 2,200 FEET ALTITUDE IN THE C. P.

Herewith the Railway receipt for the Earth Snake *Eryx conicus* despatched to-day. As he was caught on the 2nd instant and has not fed since, he should be redeemed quickly.

I was waiting for the beat to come up, in scrub jungle, when a grasshopper flying away with signs of agitation attracted my notice to the snake. The aboriginals, after inspection, pronounced it to be highly venomous! "He blows on men and cattle and they swell as large as elephants. He kills his prey like the python." This was half true.

On consulting the map of its distribution in your Journals I notice that its occurrence in the C. P., at a height of about 2,200 ft., is remarkable.

C. G. CHEVENIX TRENCH, I.C.S.

BETUL, C. P.,  
7th December 1916.

No. XI.—NOTE ON THE HAMADRAYAD OR KING COBRA (*NAIA BUNGARUS*) IN NORTH KANARA.

The Hamadrayad is nowhere very common, and many years ago, when engaged on survey work in North Kanara, I never even heard of one although I had the best of opportunities for doing so. The first one that I ever saw in the district, was at Supa, in 1914 when revisiting my old haunts. It was found coiled up in the fork of a tree near the Kali Nadi, by wood cutters, who informed some snake charmers living at Supa, of their find and the latter went out at once and snared it. It was a fine adult specimen about 11 feet long and of a pale olive-green colour, but did not look very happy when I saw it, owing to the bad treatment it had received at the hands of the snake charmers, who had extracted its fangs.

This year (1916) when encamped at Potoli in the same district, I was fortunate enough to be able to renew my acquaintance with the snake. I had for sometime been offering a reward to any one who would show me one, but although the natives were apparently well acquainted with the snake and had a wholesome dread of it, they said that it was very rare.